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MONDAY
FEBRUARY 8, 1954

There was a restricted meeting of the Foreign Ministers this afternoon, each delegation being permitted a total representation of four, including an interpreter. Indo-China was discussed and the Korea Indo-China proposal was presented by Dulles. Molotov's reaction was evasive.

Jean Monnet and Von Helmont came to the Conant house to meet me. We spent almost three hours on the CSC investment program and in talking over the possibility of a short and immediate EPC treaty, which would be effective on a provisional basis until the final treaty had been worked out and adopted.

Monnet's feeling is that it will take months to ascertain whether any agreement can be reached on the supranational powers of a political executive and on the common market as well as other provisions, such as the inclusion of the French Union, which are now being disputed in the Paris Committee. However, it might be settled that elections - say in October - would be held to choose a European popular assembly on a non-national basis of suffrage. The President of the Executive body would be appointed by the signatory governments and would be subject to confirmation by the Assembly. This President would become Chairman of the EDC Commissariat. The present CSC Assembly would be replaced by the new one. The Paris Committee would continue its labors and endeavor to conclude a full treaty at some later date.

Obviously, this would represent a great retreat from the positions maintained by the Maximalists, but may be worth exploring as a way to get forward with a vote by the French Parliament on EDC. Monnet thinks both Mollet and Teitgen could be persuaded to follow this change ~~of tactics. The proposal would be~~ made by Bidault if Mollet, Teitgen, Hallstein, de Staercke, ourselves and others were in accord.

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This matter requires most searching consideration. Unfortunately, Bob Bowie is too tied up with important Conference work for him to be able yet to give his judgment on it.

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